



Northbourne News

12th May 2023

This term's value: Community

'A seed must die before it can sprout from the ground' (1 Corinthians 15:36)

Congratulations to all of our year 6 pupils for working so hard during their SATs tests this week. We were all so impressed by how calm and motivated everyone was, and by the resilience and perseverance shown as pupils worked through their papers. To hear pupils reflect at the end of their final test yesterday "that wasn't as bad as I thought!" was a testament to both their extremely positive attitudes and the work of our staff to keep these tests in perspective. We are all very proud of all of them.

Thanks, as well, to our Y5 pupils for being so flexible while they have had slightly different timetables for their mornings in school this week. Like Y6, they have been mature, flexible and adaptable – well done to all of you.

I would like to pass on huge thanks to all of our Upper Key Stage Two staff team for the time and energy they have spent helping pupils prepare in the build up to their tests – they have, as always, gone the extra mile to make sure pupils were prepared and confident, and I am very grateful, as always, for the commitment they have shown.

Year 6 know their learning doesn't stop now SATs are over. They have exciting topics to cover for the rest of this term and after the half term break which will ensure they continue to make progress across all areas of the curriculum, and will also be thinking about their transition to secondary school. I am looking forward to seeing Y6 continue to set an example for the rest of the school as they end their time with us at Northbourne.

Reading news

At the start of this year we set a whole school challenge of reading over 40,000 times at home by the end of the school year. With term 4s totals added to that of the year so far, we are already at an amazing 33,231 reads. We are on track to smash our target, so please continue to encourage your children to keep up with their home reading and help us beat our target.

The interclass reading competition is also heating up, with Nightingales beating Wrens by just 2 reads last term and Kites beating Eagles by 29. I wonder which classes will triumph when we add up the reading numbers at the end of this term?

Volunteer helpers: If you or a member of your family has any time to spare, we are always on the look-out for volunteers to read with children. If you think you might be able to help, please speak to me or call into the office to register your details.

PTA News

We are all looking forward to our Family Quiz night, next Friday between 6 and 8pm. Tickets are on sale at the start and end of school; please pop along and speak to one of the members of our PTA for more information and to buy tickets for your team. It promises to be an entertaining evening!

You might have seen in our most recent PTA newsletter that Lisa Howlett, our vice chair, is training hard to run the Blenheim 7k in 9 days time – all as part of her fundraising efforts for Northbourne. We are so grateful to Lisa for her hard work – if you can spare a couple of pounds in support, please visit her Gofundme page: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3bhb87>. All contributions would be gratefully received – and I know you will join me in wishing Lisa lots of luck.

On behalf of Lisa, the PTA and all at Northbourne, many thanks to K&K for printing Lisa's top free-of-charge.



Have you seen...

...a multi-coloured, metallic Invert Neon scooter, which hasn't been seen since it was stored in the bike racks earlier this week. If so, please let someone in our office know and we will get it back to its owner.

Year 6 Transition Information

A final reminder that members of staff from St. Birinus School and Didcot Girls' School will be visiting us on **Thursday 25th May** to meet parents and carers of children transferring to these schools in September. These talks, which pupils will also be part of, start at 9am and should last no longer than one hour. If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would like to discuss your son's / daughter's school transfer in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Wood at St Birinus School on 01235 814444, email mwood@st-birinus.oxon.sch.uk or Melanie Good at Didcot Girls' School on 01235 812092, email mgood@didcotgirls.oxon.sch.uk.